

The Norman Conquest

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again to recover courage, and re-
establish again little
by little their forces and their fortunes."

Prom A versa Rainulf sent out letters
into Nor-
mandy summoning the adventurous to
come and
share the fortunes of their compatriots
in the great
arena of Italy, The news came to a
household of
upper Normandy where lived under
one roof a
family of sons who were to outdistance
all those
who preceded them to Italy in fame
and fortune
and to reap most of the profits of
conquest,

At Hauteville-la-Guidmrd, eight miles
or so
north-east of Coutances, the ruins of
an ancient
castle marked until recently what was
once the
home of Tancred, the father of the
conquerors of
Apulia, and the grandfather of Roger II,
of Naples
and Sicily, Tancred was a knight of
small patri-
mony, possessing apparently a single
manor. He
was born in the latter half of the
tenth century at
a time when only two generations
separated the
Normans, now becoming Oallicisud in
blood,
physique, and culture, from the
Norse ancestors
who, heathens and barbarians, had
sailed with
Rollo up the Seine and shared the
duchy of Nor-
mandy with him. Many legends testify
to the

tremendous physical strength and
personal address
of the old Tancred, the worthy founder
of a great
race, Poor as he *wtm* in possessions, he
imparted
courage, strength, and high gifts to
twelve sons
who grew up round him and found the
patrimony

»Quill. **Ap,, op. eft.,** l»k. {., I, 145*